

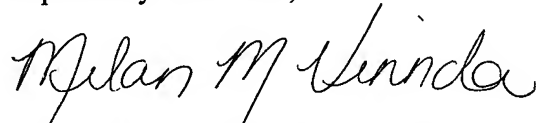
REMARKS

By way of the present amendment, the priority paragraph has been amended to include applications for which 120 priority benefit is claimed, and to update the status of priority applications. The amendment, therefore, presents no new matter. As such, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendment is timely filed, and as such, request acknowledgement of the amended priority claim by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

Each of the presently pending claims is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (202) 942-5000 should any additional information be necessary for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: Dec 23, 2003

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